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Support Palestine, Says Jewish Philosopher

Intellectual calls for U.S. foreign policy about-face in regard to Israel, Islam

By Michael Collins Piper

A well-known and highly regarded Canadian academic, the son of German Jews, has sent shockwaves through pro-Israel circles in the West. Michael Neumann, a professor of philosophy at Trent University in Ontario, Canada, has called for the United States to break its "special relationship" with Israel and, instead, openly and boldly side with the Palestinians and the Arab and Muslim states around the globe. He is urging the United States to lead an international coalition to force Israel to accept a negotiated peace settlement with the Palestinians and — most importantly — give up its giant arsenal of nuclear weapons.

REPRESSIVE POLICIES: Above, a Palestinian man in a donkey cart approaches an Israeli soldier guarding a checkpoint that is opened thrice daily for local Palestinian agricultural workers who have been cut off from their land by Israel's "Great Wall" separation barrier. Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's cabinet approved economic sanctions against the new Hamas-led Palestinian Authority, including reducing the number of Palestinians allowed to work in Israel. It is just this kind of fascist behavior that has led one Jewish intellectual to urge the United States to stop its blind support for Israel, claiming such actions would receive the blessing and good will of most of the world.

Writing in his new book, ***The Case Against Israel***, Neumann candidly asserts, based on his own study of the problem, that although he considers himself "pro-Israel and pro-Jewish" that it is still "definitely the Palestinians, not Israel, who deserve the world's support."

Neumann views "the Zionist project" — the displacement of native Palestinians and the establishment of Jewish settlements in Palestine, leading to the creation of Israel — as being, in his words "entirely unjustified" and that "some form of violent resistance" by the Christian and Muslim natives of the land was to be expected.

In the end, Neumann says, "The illegitimacy of the Zionist project was the major cause of all the terror and warfare that it aroused."

Neumann dismisses the standard claims that Israel is any sort of "special" friend of the United States and disregards the notion that the much-touted "bond" between the two countries is beneficial to U.S. interests. The relationship, he believes, "has turned poisonous to America's security and its future." It is time for action, Neumann says flat out.

The Canadian professor writes:

> America would be far better off on the other side of the Israel/Palestine conflict. It would instantly gain the warm friendship of Arab oil producers and obtain far more valuable allies in the war on terror: not only the governments of the entire Muslim world, but a good portion of the Muslim fundamentalist movement! The war on terror, which seems so unwinnable, might well be won at nominal cost, and quickly. Perhaps, the most likely scenario would simply involve an embargo on Israel sponsored by the U.S. in cooperation with the United Nations.
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> If this happens, Israel might have to be made the object of the kind of coalition forged against Iraq in the first Gulf War. Of course, against Israel the coalition would be far broader and stronger, including all the countries of the former Soviet Union, Iran, Libya, Pakistan and many others. And though Israel is quite strong enough to persist in its policies without U.S. support, it could not stand up to such a coalition. Israel would be forced to follow its own best interests.

Neumann also believes that if the United States were to come down on Israel and take a firm stand against this nation that many in the world perceive to be a rogue state, it would go a long way toward reducing the risk of a nuclear holocaust that is a continuing possibility as a consequence of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Neumann says that there are two main reasons why some nations resist surrendering their own nuclear arsenals: "fear of American attack," and what Neumann calls "the outrageous exemption of Israel from non-proliferation initiatives." Says Neumann:

> It is simply absurd to suppose that any serious effort to stem the development of nuclear weapons can proceed in the absence of any attempt to disarm Israel, which is estimated to possess between 200 and 500 nuclear warheads. Having launched its own satellites, it clearly has the capacity to hit targets anywhere in the world, and it possesses cruise missiles that have hit targets 950 miles away. Until it is forced either to disarm or to establish good relations with its neighbors, the pace of proliferation will simply increase. On the other hand, U.S. efforts to neutralize the Israeli nuclear threat would win support for nonproliferation efforts from Pakistan and Iran.

Ultimately, Neumann believes, this tough love from the United States would be of benefit to Israel itself and ensure the tiny yet wealthy and powerful nation's survival in what is now a very hostile world.

While some years in Israel the most popular song was the politically charged anthem, "The Whole World is Against Us," the sad truth is that the song title is essentially correct. But Neumann's new book provides a solution to the problem of Israel that could be workable indeed and bring Israel and its supporters worldwide into the community of mankind.

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from America First Books and First Amendment Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

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